

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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R 291050Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 544

INFO COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

CINCPAC HONOLULU

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, U, TH

SUBJ: U.S. FORCES IN THAILAND

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THE FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF EXCERPTS FROM THE 29 AUGUST 1975 NEWS CONFERENCE OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT NITSAI WETCHA-CHIWA:

BEGIN EXCERPT

REPORTER: THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR MET PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE YESTERDAY, AND THE PRIME MINISTER DISCLOSED LATER THAT THEIR TALKS WERE ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES FROM THAILAND. COULD YOU GIVE US ANY ADDITIONAL DETAILS?

NITSAI: THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR MET THE PRIME MINISTER YESTERDAY AFTERNOON. THEY DISCUSSED PROCEDURES FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES, TO ENSURE THAT THEY COORDINATE WITH GOVERNMENT POLICY. THIS MEANS VARIOUS METHODS FOR WITHDRAWALS, WHERE WITHDRAWALS WILL BE CARRIED OUT FIRST, ETC., THE EXTENT OF WITHDRAWALS, UNCLASSIFIED

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IN ORDER THAT THEY ARE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN BY MARCH 20, 1976.

THIS IS THE INFORMATION I HAVE RECEIVED, BY CHANCE, REGARDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES.

REPORTER: HAS AGREEMENT BEEN REACHED YET FROM WHERE THE NEXT WITHDRAWALS WILL BE?

NITSAI: THAT CANNOT BE DISCLOSED UNDER THE AGREEMENT REACHED. BUT WHEN ANY WITHDRAWAL WILL BE CARRIED OUT, AN ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE ISSUED, INFORMING THE PEOPLE, AS HAS BEEN THE CUSTOM FOLLOWED IN THE PAST.

REPORTER: WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE REVIEW AND REVISION OF TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS WITH AMERICA?

NITSAI: DO YOU MEAN REGARDING THE ECONOMY? SO FAR AS I KNOW IT IS STILL UNDER NEGOTIATION. WHEN ANY TREATY OR AGREEMENT IS AMENDED OR COMPLETELY DRAFTED, THE PRINCIPLE CONFORMED TO IS THAT IT MUST BE APPROVED BY BOTH SIDES. DRAFTS HAVE TO BE SENT BACKWARDS AND FORWARDS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND AGREEMENT HAS MOST PROBABLY NOT BEEN REACHED ON THE FINAL DRAFT. DO YOU MEAN THE 1950 ECONOMIC AGREEMENT, WHICH IS THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. IT IS BEING AMENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRACTICE. NO FINAL AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED YET REGARDING WHAT FORM IT WILL TAKE.

REPORTER:

NITSAI: THE RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE CABINET IS TO REVIEW VARIOUS TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS WITH THE UNITED STATES, NOT SPECIFYING MILITARY AGREEMENTS ONLY. THEREFORE, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS STILL CARRYING ON THIS TASK ENTRUSTED TO IT BY THE CABINET. WE HAVE SET UP A COMMITTEE AND WE HAVE A SUB-COMMITTEE WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN STUDYING TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS. THE COMMITTEE HAS HELD ONE MEETING ALREADY, AND AFTER THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE HAS HELD NOT LESS THAN 7-8 MEETINGS, DURING WHICH DOCUMENTS WERE COLLECTED AND VARIOUS DETAILS STUDIED. WHEN THE COMMITTEE HELD A MEETING, IT SUBMITTED VIEWS AND ADVICE TO THE GOVERNMENT. I, HOWEVER, WISH TO INFORM YOU FRANKLY THAT NOTHING CAN BE DISCLOSED AT THIS STAGE. BUT WE HAVE STUDIED ALL COMMITMENTS, INCLUDING MILITARY, ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL, AND IN OTHER MATTERS,

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WHICH WE HAVE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

END EXCERPT
WHITEHOUSE

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